

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00353 150801Z

16

ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5007

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 0353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL GARN

1. SENATOR JAKE GARN (R-UTAH) AND PARTY VISITED ROK JAN 5-9 AT INVITATION OF KOREA-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL. SENATOR DISCUSSED US-ROK POLICY WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF AND WAS GIVEN MILITARY BRIEFING BY COMMANDER USFK. HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT PARK, PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND RECEIVED FORMAL ROKG BRIEFINGS ON ECONOMY AND DEFENSE, INCLUDING ROK FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN. SENATOR ALSO VISITED INDUSTRIAL SITES IN PUSAN AND ULSAN.

2. PURPOSE OF CODEL VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN GENERAL POLITICAL ECONOMIC BACKGROUND. SENATOR WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH ROK ECONOMY ACHIEVEMENTS AND EFFORTS TOWARD BUILDING SELF-SUFFICIENT NATIONAL DEFENSE. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH U.S. AND ROKG OFFICIALS SENATOR STATED HE FAVORED CONTINUED U.S. TROOP PRESENCE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ROK. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED SENATOR'S REMARKS TO ECONOMIC COUNCIL JAN 6 TO EFFECT THAT U.S. FORCES IN KOREA PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AS DETERRENT AGAINST ANOTHER WAR AND THUS NO U.S. TROOPS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. ERICSON

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Message Attributes

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